

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OPORTO 00212 190847Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 181612Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL OPORTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0984
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OPORTO 212

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: EANES CONCLUDES NORTHERN TOUR

REF OPORTO 209

1. PRESIDENT EANES ENDED HIS FIVE DAY TRIP IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL JULY 15 WITH VISITS TO MAJOR WOOD INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX OF TABOPAN IN AMARANTE AND OPORTO PORT AREA OF LEIXOES. BG. PIRES VELOSO HOSTED FAREWELL DINNER FOR THE PRESIDENT AT NORTHERN REGION MILITARY HEADQUARTERS ATTENDED BY NORTHERN UNIT COMMANDERS. LOCAL PRESS COMMENTARIES WERE FAVORABLE THROUGHOUT THE TRIP. EANES RECEIVED HIGH MARKS FOR AVOIDING PROMISES AND POLITICAL RHETORIC.

2. GROWING EANES CULT: WHETHER THE PRESIDENT WANTS IT OR NOT, HIS TRIP REINFORCES A GROWING WAVE OF POPULARITY IN THE NORTH. IN THE PAST, SOME OPORTO URBANITES HAVE COMPLAINED THAT EANES IS ONLY A LT. COLONEL IN MENTALITY AND BACKGROUND WHO IS UNKNOWN IN THE INTERIOR. FEW CONTINUE TO HOLD THAT OPINION. NORTHERN COUNTRYSIDE OFTEN TURNED OUT EN MASSE TO APPLAUD THE PRESIDENT WITHOUT THE URGING OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OR
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POLITICAL ADVANCE MEN. SERIOUSNESS AND UNTIRING DEDICATION OF EANES AND HIS PREFERENCE FOR WORK INSTEAD OF PROTOCOL ARE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH GREATLY APPEAL TO NORTHERN PORTUGUESE MENTALITY.

3. WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE: THE PRESIDENT COULD NOT HELP BUT BE SHOCKED AT TIMES BY THE BACKWARDNESS OF MUCH OF THE NORTHEASTERN IN-

TERIOR WHERE IN SOME VILLAGES OXCARTS STILL SERVE AS AMBULANCES.
HE HAD TO TRAVEL BY HELICOPTER. ROAD TRAVEL WOULD HAVE TAKEN WEEKS
THOUGH DISTANCES ARE SMALL. MANY VILLAGES ARE WITHOUT ELECTRICITY
IN AN AREA WHICH SUPPLIES ALMOST ALL OF PORTUGAL'S HYDROELECTRIC
POWER. POLLUTED WATER AND LACK OF SANITATION ARE DAILY FACTS
OF LIFE. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE EXISTS CERTAIN POTENTIAL IN
UNEXPLOITED RESOURCES AND UNDERUTILIZED LAND. SOME INDUSTRIAL
AND BUSINESS SECTORS HOLD GREAT PROMISE. EANES CAN COUNT ON
PEOPLE WHO CONTINUE TO WORK LONG HOURS WITH LITTLE BENEFIT OF
MODERN CIVILIZATION. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT CAN
ALSO COUNT ON THE UNDIVIDED LOYALTY OF THE MILITARY ESTABLISH-
MENT IN THE NORTH.
PENNER

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Message Attributes

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